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## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE BRAZILIAN AND PORTUGUESE REALITY

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**Annotation.** The objective of this article is to critically review the main theoretical references in the area of domestic violence, especially violence against women and violence in intimacy. We seek to analyze how the concepts of this type of violence are portrayed and used in the gender studies of the last decades. It is also intended to raise awareness of the realities of domestic violence in Brazil and Portugal. Based on the statistical analysis of the two countries, it can be seen that domestic violence in Portugal is broader, not only for women. It is also interesting to mention that, if after the edition of the Maria da Penha Law, great emphasis was placed on the creation and implementation of Specialized Police Stations for women victims of domestic violence, the same attention was not given to the Military Police, which is the victim's first contact with the system.

**Keywords:** domestic violence; violence against woman; police; judiciary.

### INTRODUCTION

To speak of security today is to speak of a decisive argument which has to be founded on the inevitable sociability, the degree of which objectively influences the level of cohesion of society.

In order for all citizens to be able to live safely and enjoy their freedoms and well-being, it is necessary for the State to ensure the necessary security conditions to minimize threats related to organized crime, drug trafficking, trafficking in human beings, domestic violence, sexual exploitation of minors and child pornography, terrorism, arms trafficking, economic crime and cybercrime, among others of lesser importance. Reducing security to the traditional concept of the maintenance of public order is not only reductive, but conceptually ineffective in societies that we want advanced. Modern security therefore demands a systemic vision and action in which the maintenance of order by the "curative" route (direct repressive intervention by the security forces) can only be understood as a complement to a last resort of a careful preventive action of the maintenance, not only of the public order, but also of social peace.

One of the most worrying crimes in our society is domestic violence (DV). In fact, corresponding to a culture long rooted in some social and family circles about the use of violence against relatives and neighbours, both Brazil and Portugal continue to have very high rates of this type of crime.

In fact, the levels of harm from marital violence vary from simple aggression to homicide, with collateral damages to other relatives who witness it, especially children. Violence against siblings, sexual abuse of children, especially girls, parental abuse, elder abuse, abuse of comrades and ex-comrades are concerns that society should not abstain from.

Security is a basic right, and justice and individual freedom call for mutually reinforcing policies, while respecting fundamental rights, the rule of law and privacy.

**The aim of the article** is critically review the main theoretical references in the area of domestic violence, especially violence against women and compare domestic violence facts in Brazil and Portugal.

**Methodology of the research** - the theoretical and methodological foundation of the work based on the main theoretical references in the area of domestic violence, especially violence against women.

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN INTIMATE RELATIONSHIPS

Contrary to what one might imagine, “intervention in mistreatment of women is recent”<sup>1</sup>. For millennia these practices were not only tolerated, but even regarded as something completely beyond the control of the law and the state. In fact, the law only recognized the legitimacy of the State to intervene in family life when the property rights inherent in family relations were at stake. Until the 1970s, there were no specific responses to the problem<sup>2</sup>. From that date, this problem began to have more visibility, through studies in the areas of social and human sciences, where the feminist perspective began to be more dominant. Feminist movements began the process of denouncing this serious violation of human rights perpetrated within families, and later became the target of intervention and definition of public policies that were systematized in order to combat it<sup>3</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> Machado, C., Matos, M., Saavedra, R., Cruz, O., Antunes, C., Pereira, M., Rato, A., Pereira, I., Carvalho, C. & Capitão, L. “*Crenças e Atitudes dos Profissionais Face à Violência Conjugal*”, Estudos com Profissionais de Saúde, Polícias e Professores; Acta Med Port.; 22(6): 2009, p.735-742

<sup>2</sup> Berry D. B. “*The domestic violence sourcebook*”. Lowell House: USA, Illinois, 2000

<sup>3</sup> Lisboa, M., Barroso, Z., Patricio, J. & Leandro, A., “*Violência e Género – Inquérito Nacional sobre a Violência exercida contra Mulheres e Homens*”, CIG: Coleção de Estudos de Género 6, Lisboa, 2009

Costa<sup>4</sup>, in his doctoral thesis, addresses two historical moments responsible for the greater visibility given to conjugal violence. The first moment corresponded to the initiatives of civil society that organized to support women victims of conjugal violence by opening shelters for abused women, which marked the intolerance of society regarding the physical violence of men over the women. The second moment occurs in England, in the year 1974, with the publication of the book *Scream Quietly or the Neighbours Will Hear*. For the author, it is implicit that at both times the issue of violence against women is directed to the responsibility of society to act on this phenomenon.

From the 1980s onwards, requests for aid to State institutions with this responsibility have multiplied. Increasing participation to the authorities of this type of crime illustrates this tendency well<sup>5</sup>.

Since then, feminist movements have begun to focus the discussion on violence against women in gender differentiation, resulting in a shift in social discourse on the victims. There is a conceptual breakdown in the approach to aetiology and dispositions for crime. The author of the crime happens to be seen as being a stranger and the family home is no longer a safe place<sup>6</sup>. In most cases, violence was committed by the partner himself, in the residence of both partners.<sup>7</sup>

A study by<sup>8</sup> reported that 83% of the cases reported to the security forces referred to relations of intimacy, both present and past. About 85% of the women presented themselves as victims. According to<sup>9</sup> one of the characteristics of the power of domination of one for the other, consists in the fact that its action is always plural and never individual. Violence is then understood, as a reaction to the weakening of power, to the imbalance between actors holding power, so that, as the author argues, intimacy violence in the context of domestic violence must be observed as a resource that can be used both by woman and man.

In this sense, domestic violence presents itself as a concept related to the transgression of socially instituted norms and values, constituting a form of exercise of power, through the use of

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<sup>4</sup> Costa, D. M. de Sousa Gonçalves da, “*A Intervenção em Parceria na Violência Conjugal Contra as Mulheres: Um Modelo Inovador*” Tese de Doutoramento em Sociologia; Universidade Aberta, Lisboa, 2010.

<sup>5</sup> Machado, C., Matos, M., Saavedra, R., Cruz, O., Antunes, C., Pereira, M., Rato, A., Pereira, I., Carvalho, C. & Capitão, L. “*Crenças e Atitudes dos Profissionais Face à Violência Conjugal*”, Estudos com Profissionais de Saúde, Polícias e Professores; Acta Med Port.; 22(6): 2009, p. 735-742

<sup>6</sup> Faro, P. R., “*Representações das Vítimas de Violência Doméstica sobre o Sistema de Justiça Criminal*”, Dissertação de Mestrado, Universidade Fernando Pessoa, FCSH, Porto, 2012.

<sup>7</sup> Côrtes, G. R. “*Violência doméstica: centro de referência da mulher “Heleieth Saffioti”*”. Estudos de Sociologia, 17(32), 2012, p. 149-168

<sup>8</sup> Quaresma, C. C. Pardal Cardoso Freire, “*Violência Doméstica: Da participação da ocorrência à investigação criminal*” Ed. Cadernos da Administração Interna, Coleção de Direitos Humanos e Cidadania; Lisboa, Outubro, 2012

<sup>9</sup> Casimiro, C., “*Violências na conjugalidade: a questão da simetria do gênero*” Ed. Análise Social, vol. XLIII (3.º), 2008, pp.579-601

physical, psychological, sexual or economic force, including for this reason two universes: the victim and the victim.<sup>10</sup>

In fact,<sup>11</sup> defend three perspectives of violence; the so-called direct violence, which includes aggression and physical harm; the second perspective of violence is related to indirect violence, where psychological and emotional coercion are present and the third, symbolic violence, in relation to power relations and domination, artefacts that are part of the individual's consciousness. The latter is a type of dominant violence in relationships.<sup>12</sup>

Also in this context, violence is triggered mainly by the existence of a cycle, which consists of three phases and is repeated: a first with the emergence of tension, as a result of poor communication between the couple; the second phase, with the action, also known as the phase of the storm, characterized by explosions of violence and abuse and the honeymoon phase, characterized by the reconciliation and apparent end of violence.<sup>13</sup>

Table 1 shows various forms of manifestation of conjugal violence in the context of domestic violence.

**Table 1.** Types of Domestic Violence Practice.

<b>Threats</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Threatening to cause injury to the person of the victim;</li> <li>- Threaten to abandon, commit suicide, complain of the spouse to Social Security;</li> <li>- Coercing to practice illicit conduct.</li> </ul>
<b>Intimidate</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To frighten about the looks, acts, behaviours;</li> <li>- Speak in a very loud voice (Shout) breaking objects;</li> <li>- Destroying belongings or personal objects of the other;</li> <li>- Abuse of pets;</li> <li>- Display weapons.</li> </ul>
<b>Emotional Violence</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To demoralize;</li> <li>- Make the other person feel bad about himself;</li> <li>- Insult;</li> <li>- Make the other person feel mentally diminished or guilty;</li> <li>- Humiliate.</li> </ul>
<b>Control and subordination</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To control the life of the other: with whom he speaks, what he reads, the movements;</li> <li>- Limit the external involvement of the other;</li> <li>- Use jealousy as justification.</li> </ul>

<sup>10</sup> Mendes, J. P. A., “*Significados da Violência Conjugal nos Profissionais de saúde; Tese de Doutorado em Ciências do Ambiente, especialidade*”: Ecologia Humana; Universidade de Évora. Outubro, 2016.

<sup>11</sup> Guareschi, N. M. de F., Weber, A., Comunello, L. N., Nardini, M. “*Discussões sobre violência: trabalhando a produção de sentidos*”. Psicologia: Reflexão e Crítica, v. 19, n. 1, Porto Alegre, 2007

<sup>12</sup> Oliveira, A. L., Chamon, E. M. Oliveira Querido, Mauricio, A. Gomes Cazarim; “*Representação social da violência: estudo exploratório com estudantes de uma universidade do interior do estado de São Paulo*”, Editora UFPR, n. 36, Curitiba, 2010, pp 261-274.

<sup>13</sup> Walker, L.E.A., “*The Battered Woman Syndrome*”, New York: Springer, 2000.

<b>Minimize, condemn, deny</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Devalue violence and disregard the other's concerns;</li> <li>- To affirm that aggression or violence never took place;</li> <li>- Transfer responsibility for violent behaviour to the other;</li> <li>- To affirm that it is the fault of the other.</li> </ul>
<b>Instrumentalize children</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Making the other feel guilty about their children;</li> <li>- Use the children to pass messages;</li> <li>- Take advantage of visits from friends to harass, harass;</li> <li>- Threaten to take children from home.</li> </ul>
<b>Using "Machistic Processes"</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Treat the woman as a maid;</li> <li>- Take all important decisions by yourself;</li> <li>- Being what defines the role of woman and man.</li> </ul>
<b>Using Economic Violence</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Prevent the other from having or keeping a job;</li> <li>- Forcing the request for money;</li> <li>- Set an allowance;</li> <li>- To take the money of the other;</li> <li>- Prevent the other person from knowing or accessing family income.</li> </ul>
<b>Using Sexual Violence</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Refusal of sexual intercourse forced sexual acts.</li> </ul>

(Source: adapted from Machado and Gonçalves<sup>14</sup>)

On the other hand, according to<sup>15</sup>, violence is influenced by sociocultural and political values and therefore does not occur in isolation. As Debert<sup>16</sup> argues, violence is not only directed at people, it is not only a social act in itself, but also encompasses other universes, such as judicial, political and police.

In this sense, domestic violence is a problem of great complexity, so public policies must include not only the health sector but also other equally important areas such as gender, human rights, justice, public safety, labour and social security, among others<sup>17</sup>. Thus, "<...> conjugal violence, especially physical violence, is mostly exercised by men over women. But we also recognize another broader set that, by not specifying the perpetrator of conjugal violence, speaking of "people" in general, of the reciprocity of spousal violence, implies that conjugal violence, especially psychological violence, may from both the male and the female individual<sup>18</sup>. This is the will to exercise authority to produce effects in interpersonal relationships.

In this regard, the facts that trigger violence in intimate relationships usually include the discussion with the man, questioning him, namely about the money or the existence of other partners

<sup>14</sup> Machado, C., e Gonçalves, Rui Abrunhosa "Violência e Vítimas de Crimes". Coimbra: Quarteto, 2003

<sup>15</sup> Matthews, G. & Goodman, S. (Eds). "Violence and the limits of representation". Palgrave, McMilliam, 2013

<sup>16</sup> Debert, G. G., "Conflitos éticos nas delegacias de defesa da mulher". In G. G. Debert et al. (eds.), Gênero e Distribuição da Justiça: As Delegacias de Defesa da Mulher e a Construção das Diferenças, Pagu/ Núcleo de Estudos de Gênero, Unicamp, 2006, pp. 57-88

<sup>17</sup> Garcia, L.Posenato, Duarte, E. C., Freitas, L. Rolim Santana de & Silva, G. Drummond Marques da, "Violência doméstica e familiar contra a mulher: estudo de casos e controles com vítimas atendidas em serviços de urgência e emergência". Cad. Saúde Pública [online]. vol. 32, n.4, e00011415Epub Apr 19, 2016. ISSN 1678-4464

<sup>18</sup> Casimiro, C., "Representações sociais de violência conjugal", Ed Análise Social, vol. XXXVII (163), 2002, 603-630

and also against the woman for the non-fulfilment of family roles, refusal of sexual relations and the suspicion on the part of the man of the practice of infidelity by the woman<sup>19</sup>.

Authors such as Acosta, Gomes, & Barlem, cited by Rosa and Falcke<sup>20</sup>, argue that conjugal violence includes various forms of expression, such as physical aggression, psychological harassment and forced sexual acts. According to Colossi & Falcke; Salis, Salwen, & O'Leary, also cited by Rosa and Falcke<sup>21</sup>, report that physical violence usually occurs after psychological violence, and may occur in couples with the most diverse ages, ethnicities and social classes.

Still according to the authors Grande et al., Lowenstein et al., cited by Gil et al.<sup>22</sup>, studies in which the main aggressors are the spouses / partners, the women of the younger age groups are the main victims of psychological and / or verbal violence.

Another study by McKinney, Christy M.; Caetano, Raul; Ramisetty-Mikler, Suhasini; Nelson, Scott<sup>23</sup> at the University of Texas with 1615 couples concluded that men who were subjected in their childhood to abuse had a strong tendency to commit marital violence in adulthood compared to those who had never had such experience. In this study it was also concluded that women who were subjected to abuse during childhood were more predisposed in adult life to be aggressive or to be victimized.<sup>24</sup>

Feminist theory, where the target is women, studies marital violence in a patriarchal framework, where violence is an instrument of social domination, through which women are subordinated and subjugated to the control of men.<sup>25</sup> However, the investigations included only women who were victims of domestic violence, and more detailed studies were carried out on women victims of this type of crime, thus constructing only theories on the psychology of battered women, based on the status of subordination to man.<sup>26</sup> It is on the basis of these studies that several authors argue that women are in fact the main victims of man-made violence.

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<sup>19</sup> Mendes, J.P. Alegre, “*Significados da Violência Conjugal nos Profissionais de saúde*”, Tese de Doutorado em Ciências do Ambiente, especialidade: Ecologia Humana; Universidade de Évora. Outubro, 2016

<sup>20</sup> Rosa, L. W. da & Falcke, D., “*Violência conjugal: compreendendo o fenômeno, Sociedade de Psicoterapias Analíticas Grupais*”, São Paulo, Revista da Spagesp, 15(1), 2014, pp.17-32

<sup>21</sup> *Ibid*;

<sup>22</sup> Gil, A. P., Santos, A. J., Kislaya, I., Nicolau, R. et. al., “*Ageing and Violence*”, Instituto Nacional de Saúde – Dr. Ricardo Jorge, Lisboa, Fevereiro, 2014. ISBN 978-972-8643-88-1

<sup>23</sup> McKinney, C. M., Caetano, R., Ramisetty-Mikler, S., & Nelson, S. “*Childhood Family Violence and Perpetration and Victimization of Intimate Partner Violence: Findings From a National Population-Based Study of Couples*”. Annals of Epidemiology, 19(1), 2009, pp. 25-32

<sup>24</sup> *Ibid*;

<sup>25</sup> Casimiro, C., “*Violências na conjugalidade: a questão da simetria do gênero*”, Ed. Análise Social, vol. XLIII (3.), 2008, pp. 579-601.

<sup>26</sup> *Ibid*;



In this perspective, it is inferred that feminist theory defends the non-existence of gender symmetry of violence in the couple, since violence always comes from man, according to that theory.

On the contrary, for family sociologists, violence is only an instrument that can be used by both men and women.<sup>27</sup> In this sense, conjugal violence is studied in view of two distinct realities; which is why more emphasis is placed on studies related to family dynamics, using notions such as "violence in the couple" or "violent relationships", to the detriment of notions related to "violence against women" or "abuse of women".<sup>28</sup>

According to Farias<sup>29</sup> "conjugal violence is differentiated by gender, and the manifestations of aggressiveness vary between male and female." Women are often victims of psychological, physical and sexual violence, while men are more victims of psychological violence motivated by abandonment and rejection issues.

The common violence in the couple is another type of violence that is characterized by being also practiced by both the man and the woman and that results from a specific conflict or a series of conjugal tensions, being not specific of power or control for each other and whose frequency and intensity do not increase during the life of the couple.<sup>30</sup>

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN THE BRAZILIAN SETTING

Statistical data show that Brazil occupies the unfortunate position of being the fifth country where women are most often killed, although in the first ten months of 2015 there were 63,090 reports of violence against women, corresponding to a report every 7 minutes.<sup>31</sup> In the year 2016, about 4,606 women died in Brazil as a result of homicides and femicides, corresponding to a woman murdered every two hours.<sup>32</sup>

Although there is no reliable data on the numbers of violence against women in all its modalities committed in Brazil, we started with information on the number of homicides committed against women in the Map of Violence 2015 that has clear and reliable information on the subject. Data from

<sup>27</sup> Archer, J., "Sex differences in aggression between heterosexual partners: a metaanalytic review", in Psychological Bulletin, n.º 126, 2000, pp. 651-680.

<sup>28</sup> Casimiro, C., "Violências na conjugalidade: a questão da simetria do gênero", Ed. Análise Social, vol. XLIII (3.º), 2008, pp. 579-601.

<sup>29</sup> Farias, R. S. Capucho, "Violência Conjugal: O Silêncio das Vítimas"; Dissertação de Mestrado; Universidade Católica Portuguesa, Setembro, 2014.

<sup>30</sup> Casimiro, C., "Violências na conjugalidade: a questão da simetria do gênero", Ed. Análise Social, vol. XLIII (3.º), 2008, pp. 579-601.

<sup>31</sup> Estadão - <http://brasil.estadao.com.br/noticias/geral,brasil-tem-1-denuncia-de-violencia-contr-a-mulher-a-cada-7-minutos,10000019981> – [consulted on January 6, 2018].

<sup>32</sup> 11º Brazilian Yearbook of Public Security; Brazilian Forum on Public Security; Records and Statistics, available at <http://www.forumseguranca.org.br/publicacoes/11o-anuario-brasileiro-de-seguranca-publica/>, published on October 30, 2017 – [Accessed on February 4, 2018].

the Map of Violence indicate that between 2003 and 2013, the number of female homicide victims increased from 3,937 to 4,762, increasing by 21.0% in the decade.

These 4,762 deaths in 2013 represent 13 female homicides per day. Taking into account the growth of the female population that rose from 89.8 to 99.8 million in this period (growth of 11.1%), we see that the national homicide rate in 2003 was 4.4 per 100,000 women - to 4.8 in 2013, implying an 8.8% growth in the decade.<sup>33</sup>

If we limit our analysis to the period of validity of the Maria da Penha Law, which came into force in 2006, we find that most of this 10-year increase occurred under the auspices of the new law: 18.4% in numbers and 12.5% between 2006 and 2013. If, in 2007, there was a significant drop in rates, from 4.2 to 3.9 per 100,000 women, violence quickly exceeded the 2006 scale, although in 2010 there was a decrease in growth.<sup>34</sup>

According to the data contained in this report, taken together, national rates do not express the enormous diversity of situations existing between regions and between Federative Units.

In 2013, for example, if Roraima had an absurdly high rate of 15.3 homicides per 100,000 women, more than tripling the national average, the rates in Santa Catarina, Piauí and São Paulo were around 3 per 100,000, that is, the fifth part of Roraima. We can also observe that, if national oscillations between 2003 and 2013 were not very significant, many of the Units experienced strong changes, with some states registering slight decreases in Mato Grosso do Sul (-0.1%), Amapá (-5, 3%) and Rondônia (-11.9%) and more significant falls, above 30%, in São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro.

However, since the Maria da Penha Law was in force, only five federal units registered falls in rates: Rondônia (-5.5%), Espírito Santo (-10.8%), Pernambuco (-22.3%), São Paulo (-23.7%) and Rio de Janeiro (-27.4%), a period in which some states in the North and Northeast had the highest growth rates, such as Roraima (131.3%), Rio Grande do Norte (97.6%), Ceará (96.1%), Acre (89.2%) and Tocantins (54.7%).<sup>35</sup>

The data suggest that one can not have a single national trend perspective in this regard. The oscillations are less related to global factors and more to local circumstances, which must be studied for the purpose of transforming the local reality.

According to data from the Ligue 180 Women's Assistance Center, in 2015, Ligue 180 performed 634,862 visits - an average of 52,500 per month and 1,750 per day, a number well above

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<sup>33</sup> *Ibid*;

<sup>34</sup> 11º Brazilian Yearbook of Public Security; Brazilian Forum on Public Security; Records and Statistics, available at <http://www.forumseguranca.org.br/publicacoes/11o-anuario-brasileiro-de-seguranca-publica/>, published on October 30, 2017 – [Accessed on February 4, 2018].

<sup>35</sup> *Ibid*;



that recorded in 2014 (485,105). Of the total number of visits in 2015, 39.52% corresponded to the provision of information, 9.65%, referrals to specialized services for women, 9.94% to reports of violence against women and 40.28% to referrals for other tele-assistance services (190 / Military Police, 197 / Civil Police, Dial 100 / SDH). Of the 85.85% of the reports of violence registered in the Call Center, corresponded to situations of family against women.<sup>36</sup>

Compared to 2014, there was a 44.74% increase in the number of reports of violence, 325% of private prison (average of 11.8 / day), 129% of sexual violence (average of 9.53 / day), 151% trafficking in persons (average of 29 / month).<sup>37</sup>

It is important to note that since its creation in 2005, the Women's Assistance Center has already registered 4,823,140 calls, thus appearing as an important instrument for denouncing and defending women victims of violence<sup>38</sup>.

In fact, this form of violence, because it corresponds to a culture long rooted in social circles, about the use of force especially against women and close relatives, whether as a means of imposing a will or for gender supremacy, difficult to solve.

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN THE PORTUGUESE SCENE

In Portugal, victim support teams, both from the National Republican Guard (GNR) and the Public Security Police (PSP), have common procedures that have been specialized in recent years, with regard to prevention and action in cases of Domestic Violence.

In fact, the procedures have elements in common and distinct in relation to the Brazilian legal regime, but, in the general context, much interest as a good practice, which can be reproduced.

The Portuguese legal regime applicable to the prevention of domestic violence, to the protection and assistance of its victims, is provided for in Law no. 112/2009, of 16 September (Victim Statute) and Criminal Procedure Code (CPP) including precautionary measures.

In fact, the Portuguese police (both the GNR and the PSP) have broad competence for what in Brazil would be attributions of the military and civil police. This is because, for example, the GNR (Republican National Guard) has competence in both the patrol of proximity, ostensive, maintenance of public order and research competence in 95% of the national territory, being that what

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<sup>36</sup>Secretariat of Policies for Women, Balance Sheet "Ligue 180" - Women's Assistance Center, available at: <file:///C:/Users/pfvol/Desktop/PROJECTO Rondônia/PROJECTO Rondônia/balanco180-10meses-1.pdf> - [Accessed on February 5, 2018].

<sup>37</sup> *Ibid*;

<sup>38</sup> *Ibid*;

differentiates it from the PSP is only the territorial question (5% of the territory is attributed to the PSP) and the fact that, while GNR is militarized the PSP is civil.

It should be clarified that since 2009 there has been a massive investment in the security forces, especially in the GNR, being that, currently, an agent of this force, to act in the area of domestic violence must necessarily have undergone a specialization course in support of victims, being sure that when they continue acting in the research area, in addition to this, they still need to carry out another specific course.

In addition, the teams are trained to work in full integration with the existing network and protection system, either governmental or non-governmental, making it possible for the security force, in first responding to the victim, to do so in a more integrated and materially viable for greater protection and reintegration of the victim into the family context.

Accordingly, as regards the statistics relating to Portuguese territory and based on the Annual Internal Security Report, in the years 2013 to 2016, it was verified (Table 2), that the District of Lisbon led with more cases of domestic violence to the Security Forces, followed by Porto and Setúbal. Lisbon, with some 5,885 cases in 2013 and 5,851 in 2014, showed a slight decrease from one year to the next, with a negative rate of change of -0.58%. As of 2015, 5,907 cases were reported to the Security Forces and in 2016, 6,161, representing an increase of 4.3%.

**Table 2.** Data on the number of occurrences of domestic violence provided by the GNR and PSP for the Years 2013 to 2016 throughout the National Territory.

District	Year 2013	Year 2014	Rate Var (%)	Year 2015	Year 2016	Rate Var (%)
Aveiro	1.668	1.860	11,51%	1.776	1.793	1,5%
Beja	316	272	-13,92%	246	266	8,1%
Braga	1.877	1.709	-8,95%	1.729	1.861	7,6%
Bragança	358	365	1,96%	347	335	-3,5%
Castelo Branco	427	474	8,47%	443	462	4,3%
Coimbra	1.130	1.130	0,00%	1.048	1.083	3,3%
Évora	376	363	-3,46%	378	397	5,0%
Faro	1.271	1.313	3,30%	1.323	1.386	4,8%
Guarda	313	357	14,06%	394	341	-13,5%
Leiria	898	943	5,01%	915	871	-4,8%
Lisboa	5.885	5.851	-0,58%	5.907	6.161	4,3%
Portalegre	285	250	-12,28%	313	348	11,2%
Porto	5.142	5.151	0,18%	4.782	4.903	2,5%
Santarém	998	921	-7,72%	991	916	-7,6%
Setúbal	2.380	2.310	-2,94%	2.285	2.268	-0,7%

Viana do Castelo	508	511	0,59%	504	528	4,8%
Vila Real	587	585	-0,34%	564	522	-7,4%
Viseu	759	862	13,57%	836	810	-3,1%
R. A. Madeira	1.018	1.011	-0,69%	1.049	1.034	-1,4%
R. A. Açores	1.112	1.079	-2,97%	963	1.006	4,5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>27.318</b>	<b>27.317</b>	<b>-0,004%</b>	<b>26.793</b>	<b>27.291</b>	<b>19,9%</b>

(Source: Adapted from the Annual Internal Security Report - Year 2014 and 2016)

As regards the sex of the victims (Table 3), there was a decrease in cases of women in the years 2013 (25,994), 2014 (25,931) and 2015 (25,577) increase in 2016, with 25,985 cases of domestic violence, representing in this last year about 79.9% of the national total of women attacked compared to men. In a strongly patriarchal society, it is noteworthy that about 20.1 per cent of complaints reported to the security forces were presented by men against women.

**Table 3.** Data on the gender of Domestic Violence victims, provided by the GNR and PSP for the Years 2013 to 2016 throughout the National Territory.

	Year 2013	Year 2014	Year 2015	Year 2016
Women	25.994 (81,4%)	25.931 (80,8%)	25.577 (80,7%)	25.985 (79,9%)
Man	5.936 (18,6%)	6.169 (19,2%)	6.104 (19,3%)	6.522 (20,1%)
Total	31.930 (100%)	32.100 (100%)	31.681 (100%)	32.507% (100%)

(Source: Adapted from the Annual Internal Security Report - Year 2014 and 2016)

Considering that domestic violence is recognized as a very special offense, it occurs as a rule, as a result of repressed acts, mirroring a statistical scenario in which more than half of the Districts of the Portuguese territory presented an increase of complaints to the Police. It can be inferred that there was a greater increase in the trust of the victims in the Agents of the GNR and PSP, indicating, therefore, that the training and sensitization of the agents has been a preponderant factor for the greater reliability of the population in the own system of Justice.

In this regard, Harne and Redford, quoted by Quaresma<sup>39</sup>, point out that police may be the first entity to whom victims seek help. In this sense, they expect the agents to respond quickly to their problem, to believe them (victims), not to make value judgments and to talk to them away from the aggressor, hence the need to have an able and competent Police in intervention in this type of crime.

<sup>39</sup> Quaresma, C. C. Pardal Cardoso Freire, “*Violência Doméstica: Da participação da ocorrência à investigação criminal*” Ed. Cadernos da Administração Interna, Coleção de Direitos Humanos e Cidadania; Lisboa, Outubro, 2012.

In other words, it is expected that the police will be prepared to relocate the victims after the violence they have suffered in safety conditions, inserting them in a network of care and support, sending them, if necessary, to other support entities, giving them psychological and material support (such as accommodation and security). Equally important, it is the safe and sound collection of evidence at the scene of the crime, including testimony with family members and neighbors (Richards et al., 2008)<sup>40</sup>, as well as providing them with all appropriate precautionary measures to stop aggression.

## CONCLUSION

Security is a basic right, and justice and individual freedom call for mutually reinforcing policies, while respecting fundamental rights, the rule of law and privacy. In fact, many of the domestic conflicts do not involve violence, however, the levels of harm in marital violence vary from simple aggression to homicide, with collateral damages to other relatives who witness it, especially children. Marital violence is only one aspect of a great universe of problems related to violence within the family.

Adding to this is violence against siblings, sexual abuse of women and girls, parental abuse, elder abuse, abuse against partners, and abuse of former comrades which are serious and real concerns for which society should not be abstained.

Although there has been significant progress in Brazil in the legislative and even judicial aspects, since the approval of the Maria da Penha Law (Law No. 11.340, of August 07, 2006), much is still to be built in the context of the support network and victims of domestic violence. In 2017, the National Justice Council included, among its priority political goals to be implemented in 2018, Goal 8, which consists of strengthening the network to address domestic and family violence against women, in line with the National Judicial Policy for Combating Violence against Women in the Judiciary, expressed in Ministerial Order No. 15/2017 of March 8. These objectives reflect the guidelines of the National Plan of Policies for Women (PNPM), the National Human rights in accordance with international human rights standards and instruments and national legislation.

Today, victims of domestic violence go not only to the security forces, but also to legal and judicial forms, in an attempt to solve their problems. In fact, experience says that domestic violence victims expect the police (who are most often the first agent to come to the scene) to respond quickly, effectively and completely to their problems.

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<sup>40</sup> Richards, L., Letchford, S. & Stratton, S., “*Policing Domestic Violence*”. Oxford: University Press, 2008.

It should be noted that in Portugal, more than half of its Districts reported an increase in police complaints for domestic violence, 20% of which were carried out by men, and a greater increase in the confidence of the victims in the police could be inferred.

However, it should be borne in mind that, if after the edition of the Maria da Penha Law, great emphasis was placed on the creation and implementation of Specialized Police Stations for the care of women victims of domestic violence, and this was not the case with the Military Police. thus prejudiced that which is the first (and therefore perhaps the most important) contact of the victim with the system. On the other hand, it is important to reflect the need not to look only at the victim, such as the one or the one who needs psychological support, but also the need to create structural and legal conditions for the aggressor to be subject to treatment.

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